

**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY**  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK, JULY 28, 2016

*MEMORIAL RESOLUTION IN REMEMBRANCE OF*

**Cravane M. Givens**

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on July 22, 2016, removed from our midst Cravane M. Givens, in whose death we have lost a sincere and loyal friend, as well as a valued and respected citizen, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

**WHEREAS**, Cravane Middlebrooks Givens was born in Buffalo in 1932, attended School 75 and Hutchinson-Central High School where he was a standout student and athlete, and went on to attend A&T College in North Carolina on a football scholarship where his team won multiple championships and graduated cum laude in 1954; and

**WHEREAS**, when A&T College began its Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1951, Cravane was selected as one of the first Cadets and earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve upon graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after graduation, Cravane was ordered to active duty and attended flight school, which lead to his first permanent assignment at the Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka, Kansas as a Co-Pilot on KC-97G Strat tankers in the 55<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, and was promoted to Aircraft Commander in 1958, flying missions to Greenland, Alaska, Japan, England, Turkey, Taiwan and the Pacific Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, receiving several transfers throughout his Air Force service, Cravane retired as Lieutenant Colonel in 1974, having logged 6,500 flight hours, 500 of which were in combat, and was awarded the Air Medal and three Air Force commendation medals; and

**WHEREAS**, once back in Buffalo, Cravane served as the Football Coach for Canisius College from 1974 to 1977, followed by four years as Supervisor for the NFTA Metropolitan Transit Center, and was an Assistant Director of Resident Life Activities for SUNY Buffalo State from 1985 to 1991; and

**WHEREAS**, Cravane was an active leader in the community, being a Founding Member of the First Shiloh Housing Corp in 1982 and serving on its board until his death, a Past President of the Hutchinson-Central High School Alumni Association, Past Chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Trust Fund of Buffalo, and a Life Member of the Western New York Chapter of Military Officers of America and the Buffalo Chapters of the NAACP and the Urban League; and

**WHEREAS**, Cravane M. Givens will be remembered by friends and family with funeral services at the First Shiloh Baptist Church on July 29, the same church he was baptized into and sang in the Junior Choir as a young boy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the loss of Cravane M. Givens and pause in its deliberations to honor and celebrate the life of Mr. Givens, and offer thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy to his friends and family.

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**Hon. Barbara Miller-Williams**  
*Erie County Legislator, 1<sup>st</sup> District*

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**Karen M. McCarthy**  
*Clerk, Erie County Legislature*